GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3853
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Mobile Penetration in LWE Affected Areas
Ranjan (Pappu Yadav) Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing the Bharat Net Project at the cost of installing 27000 mobile towers in naxal affected districts of the country including the State of Maharashtra as directed by the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said project will impact the mobile penetration in the left-wing extremism affected areas and pose security challenges on account of lack of communication network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the mobile penetration in the said areas and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d) No Madam. However, the Government on 20.08.2014 had approved a project for the installation of 2199 mobile towers in 10 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The estimated project implementation cost was Rs. 3567.58 crore, funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). BSNL had been nominated to execute the project. As on 31.07.2017, 2187 mobile towers out of 2199 are operational. The remaining mobile towers have not been set up due to security reasons. The project has been completed. The state-wise breakup of the locations and Tele-density data of LWE affected states are at Annexure.

Annexure

Locations of Towers in LWE Affected States
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S. No. State No. of Total Locations identified by MHA No. of Mobile Towers Installed
1. Andhra Pradesh 54 54
2. Bihar 184 184
3. Chhattisgarh 497 490
4. Jharkhand 782 782
5. Maharashtra 60 60
6. Madhya Pradesh 22 22
7. Odisha 253 248
8. Telangana 173 173
9. Uttar Pradesh 78 78
10. West Bengal 96 96
Total 2,199 2187
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Tele-density of LWE Affected States
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S. No. Service Area Overall
Tele-density
(in percent) Mobile
Tele-density
(in percent)

1. Andhra Pradesh
(including Telangana) 97.54 95.73
2. Bihar (including Jharkhand) 61.69 61.48
3. Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh) 67.60 66.64
4. Maharashtra 96.20 94.34
5. Odisha 81.46 80.80
6. Uttar Pradesh 74.83 74.45
7. West Bengal 74.25 73.84
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